



# Fact Sheet

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June 16, 2009

## **The Recovery Act: A Report on the Path to Progress in Hawaii** Creating and Saving Jobs, Boosting Household Resources, Providing Assistance for the Vulnerable in Hawaii

On February 13, 2009, the Senate approved the final version of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* and sent the legislation to President Obama to be signed into law (P.L. 111-5). The *Recovery Act* is an extraordinary response by Democrats to an inherited economic crisis unlike any since the Great Depression. The legislation represents an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create and save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can not only recover but prosper once again.

Nationwide, we have already seen companies rehiring laid-off workers, construction and renovation of facilities, and the re-starting of environmental remediation activities. And, just a few months into the two-year *Recovery Act* programs:

- **We have minimized and avoided reductions in essential services in Hawaii** by providing aid to help stabilize state and local budgets, protected critical safety-net programs, and saved teaching and law enforcement jobs.
- **Plans for job-creating infrastructure projects in Hawaii are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$45.6 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration) (as of June 2, 2009). These *Recovery Act* projects deliver jobs and make important investments in the safety of our transportation systems. [DOT Allocation Report, 6/2/2009].
- **Families and communities in Hawaii that have been hard-hit by the recession** can access increased unemployment benefits, assistance with health insurance premiums for those who have become unemployed, and food aid. And 500,000 households in Hawaii – approximately 95 percent of all families and individuals – have already begun seeing an increase in their take-home pay through the landmark Making Work Pay tax credit. The typical family will have about \$800 extra cash delivered to them in their paychecks over the next year. [The White House, 4/2/2009]

Here is a sampling of projects in Hawaii that have been covered by local media and press releases in the past several weeks, demonstrating the real-life impacts that the *Recovery Act* has

already made for Hawaii residents, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Hawaii's first *Recovery Act*-funded construction project under way at Kahalui Airport.** “The \$23.8 million project to relocate security equipment started May 15 and will last until mid-2010. While relatively small, the project provides the first indication of how the state will use an estimated \$500 million to \$950 million in added federal funds that will be pumped into Hawaii's flagging economy during the next several years. Overall, the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* promises to create or save 15,000 jobs statewide over a two-year period.” [*Honolulu Advertiser*, 6/15/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* weatherization assistance program awarded \$3.7 million in funding to improve energy efficiency and sustainability of Hawaiian homes.** the total award consists of two separate grants, with Maui Economic Opportunity receiving \$2.5 million to serve the counties of Maui, Hawaii and Kauai, and the Honolulu Community Action Program Inc. receiving more than \$1.2 million to serve Honolulu.” [*Star-Bulletin*, 6/4/2009]
- **O'ahu gets \$4 million from *Recovery Act* for preventing homeless and rapid re-housing endeavors.** HIS Executive Director: “It's going toward helping people who are on the verge of losing their rentals or need to get into housing. It's not long-term support. It's more of helping people in an emergency.” [*Honolulu Advertiser*, 6/2/2009]
- **Hawaii will receive *Recovery Act* funds to upgrade the state's aging water and sewer infrastructure.** The projects would create about 180 jobs. [*Associated Press*, 5/19/2009]
- **State officials are hoping that a big new portion of the federal *Recovery Act* package will generate more than 3,000 jobs in local construction for transportation projects.** An additional \$76.5 million will go for Honolulu and Kahului airports. Most of that money is for new explosives detection machines used to screen luggage before it is put on departing planes. [*Star Bulletin*, 3/17/2009]
- **Fourteen community health centers that serve low-income populations on six islands will share more than \$2.7 million in *Recovery Act* funds.** Senator Inouye: The funding "is a reflection of the increased demand for services from community health centers during our tough economic times. It is a time when the working poor, the uninsured, and rural and high-risk populations must often choose between health care or putting food on the table." [*Star Bulletin*, 3/17/2009]
- **State hopes *Recovery Act* can ease school cuts.** Hawaii's public school system, which is eliminating \$87.9 million and 253 positions to save the state money, could rescue some of its threatened programs and jobs through the *Recovery Act* package. [*Star Bulletin*, 2/27/2009]
- **Hawaii to see \$203M in military stimulus.** The Pentagon plans to spend more than \$203 million on construction and upgrade projects at Hawaii military bases as part of some \$7.4 billion in military funding under the *Recovery Act*. [*Pacific Business News*, 3/20/2009]

- **Hawaii to get \$15 million in *Recovery Act* funds for energy efficiency projects.** The projects are intended to reduce total energy use and fossil fuel emissions. [[South Maui Sustainability](#), 3/27/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* to help Hawaii.** Of the \$678 million, at least \$244 million, will go to education. More than \$125 million will be spent on transportation including our highways, harbors and perhaps rail. Another \$43.8 million is earmarked for mass transit. And \$30.8 million will be used to upgrade Hawaii's wastewater treatment facilities. Senator Inouye: "That's a lot of money. It will help people getting jobs. It will help stabilize our economy." [[KGMB9](#), 2/17/2009]